REMARKS

Previously, Claims 2-23 were pending in the application. Claims 6-13 were withdrawn. Of the remaining claims, independent Claims 2, 4, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20 have been amended; and Claims 24-27 have been added. Accordingly, after entry of the amendment Claims 2-5, and 14-27 will be presented.

A telephone interview between Examiner Ngo, and Applicant's representatives Mark Holland and Mark Pellegrini was conducted on April 19th and 26th of 2005. Among other things, the Von Holdt '498, Crisci '107, and Robbins '213 patents, claim construction, and application status were discussed.

Pursuant to those interviews, Applicant has amended independent claims 2, 4, 14, 16, 18, 19, and 20 as attached herewith. Applicant notes that the amendments include a "substantially continuous" shoulder rather than the Examiner's suggested "continuous" shoulder, because of Applicant's one or more few "breaks" in the shoulder of the lid's outer skirt (see, for example, Applicant's Fig. 1 which shows an opening or break in the shoulder by which a user grips the end of a tearstrip).

Applicant has included new Claim 27 "wherein the lid includes a continuous annular shoulder formed therein" (depending from each of the aforementioned independent claims).

Based on the aforementioned Examiner's interview, Applicant has further amended independent Claims 14 and 16 to include a container, as well as limitations similar to those set forth above. Applicant respectfully submits that those claims (and all claims depending therefrom) should also be allowable.

Applicant also has added further dependent claims numbered 24-26 which depend from the allowable claims set forth above. Because these claims depend from the already allowable claims, they themselves are allowable. Support for these added limitations can be found at least in the original specification on page 5, line 3; and Figure 1, reference number 33.

Finally, the last line of Claim 4 was further amended to change the word "as" to "at" in order to correct a typographical error.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application including Claims 2-5 and 14-27 are now in condition for allowance, notice whereof is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Applicant understands the Examiner has not removed the "finality" of the Final Office of February 23, 2005. Accordingly, applicable timing considerations for this and any subsequent response remain in effect.

If the Examiner had any questions regarding the foregoing, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative of Applicant at (949) 718-6750.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 23, 2005

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Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Cancelled without prejudice)

Claim 2 (Currently amended) Apparatus for providing a liquid-tight seal, including: a container having an upper edge defining an opening; and an injection-molded lid configured to cover said opening, said lid having a channel at its periphery, said channel configured to abut and form a liquid-tight seal with said upper edge of said container when said lid is assembled on said container, in which said container upper edge includes an inner contact surface and an outer contact surface tapering from a lower wider region in a wedge shape to an upper most single point region, ~~generally to a single point, and~~ said channel includes a corresponding tapered section, said tapering relationship providing contacting and sealing engagement between said lid and said container on both an inner contact surface and an outer contact surface of said upper edge, said lid including an outer skirt having ~~an~~ substantially continuous annular shoulder formed therein, said shoulder extending further outwardly than an uppermost portion of said lid, said shoulder positioned between an engaging detent on said skirt and said uppermost portion of said lid, the assembly between said lid and said container not including any rotating threaded engagement.

Claim 3 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2, in which said channel also sealingly contacts a transition surface on said container upper edge between said inner contact surface and said outer contact surface, when said lid and said container are assembled with each other.

Claim 4 (Currently amended) Apparatus for providing a liquid-tight seal, including: a container having an upper edge having an inner contact surface and an outer contact surface tapering from a lower wider region in a wedge shape to an upper most single point region ~~generally to a single point and defining an opening~~; and an injection-molded lid configured to cover said opening, said lid having a channel configured to abut and form a liquid-tight seal with said upper edge of said container when said lid is assembled on said container, the assembly between said lid and said container not including any rotating threaded engagement, in which said channel on said lid is formed by an inner skirt and an outer skirt, both of which are generally downwardly directed, and said outer skirt includes a substantially continuous annular shoulder formed therein, said shoulder extending further outwardly than an uppermost portion of said lid, and a lower portion spaced outwardly from said container upper edge to facilitate engagement of said lid on said container, said liquid-tight seal including an inner contact surface of said channel extending toward the bottom of said container at least as far as an outer contact surface of said channel.

Claim 5 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2 or Claim 3, including cooperating engagement detents on said lid and said container to hold said lid and said container in said liquid-tight sealing relationship.

Claim 6. (Withdrawn)Apparatus for providing a liquid-tight seal, including: a container having an upper edge defining an opening; and an injection-molded lid con-figured to cover said opening, said lid having a channel at its periphery, said channel con-figured to abut and form a liquid-tight seal with said upper edge of said container when said lid is assembled on said

container, including corresponding tongue and groove members on said lid and said container to interfit with each other within said channel, said tongue and groove members providing said abutment to form said liquid-tight seal with said upper edge of said container, said tongue and groove providing an inner contact and an outer contact surface between said lid and said container, said inner contact surface extending toward the bottom of the container as least as far as said outer contact surface, said outer contact surface being generally planar across its entire height.

Claim 7. (Withdrawn)The apparatus of Claim 6, in which said upper edge includes a generally horizontal surface when said container opening faces upwards, and said generally horizontal surface extends generally about the periphery of said container, and said tongue and groove members include a groove formed in said horizontal surface, said lid channel including a corresponding generally horizontal surface that confronts said generally horizontal surface of said container edge, and said tongue and groove members further include a tongue element formed on said generally horizontal surface of said lid channel, said tongue element on said lid channel sized and configured to seat within said groove in said container upper edge in a liquid sealing manner when said lid and container are engaged.

Claim 8. (Withdrawn)The apparatus of Claim 6 or Claim 7, in which said tongue member is slightly larger than said groove member.

Claim 9. (Withdrawn)The apparatus of Claim 6 or Claim 7, in which said tongue member is misaligned horizontally with respect to said groove member.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn)The apparatus of Claim 6 or Claim 7, in which at least a portion of said tongue member has a cross-section that is sloped inwardly.

Claim 11. (Withdrawn)The apparatus of Claim 6 or Claim 7, in which at least a portion of said tongue member has a cross-section that is sloped outwardly.

Claim 12. (Withdrawn)The apparatus of Claim 6 or Claim 7, in which at least a portion of said tongue member has a cross-section that is sloped, said tongue member is slightly larger than said groove member, and said tongue member is misaligned horizontally with respect to said groove member.

Claim 13. (Withdrawn)The apparatus of Claim 6 or Claim 7, including cooperating engagement detents on said lid and said container to hold said lid and said container in said liquid-tight sealing relationship.

Claim 14 (Currently amended) A container and a lid, said lid having a tapered channel at its periphery and an outer skirt having a substantially continuous annular shoulder formed therein, said shoulder extending further outwardly than an uppermost portion of said lid, said channel configured to abut and form a liquid-tight seal with an upper edge of a corresponding container

when said lid is assembled on the container, the container including an upper edge tapering from a lower wider region in a wedge shape to an upper most single point region, said tapered channel tapering generally to a single point and providing contacting and sealing engagement between said lid and the container on both an inner contact surface and an outer contact surface of said channel, said inner contact surface of said channel extending toward the bottom of the container as least as far as said outer contact surface of said channel, the assembly between said lid and said container not including any rotating threaded engagement.

Claim 15 (Currently amended) The container and lid of Claim 14, including engagement detents on said lid to engage corresponding detents on the container, to hold said lid in said liquid-tight sealing relationship on the container.

Claim 16 (Currently amended) A mating container and lid, said lid having an outer skirt having a substantially continuous annular shoulder formed therein, and a cross section configured to abut a corresponding upper edge of a container to form a liquid-tight seal with the container, said cross-section configured to receive an upper edge of the container having an inner contact surface and an outer contact surface tapering generally to a single point, the container having an upper edge tapering from a lower wider region in a wedge shape to an upper most single point region, the assembly between said lid and said container not including any rotating threaded engagement.

Claim 17 (Currently amended) The mating container and lid of Claim 16, including inwardly directed engagement detents on the outermost of said legs to engage corresponding detents on the container, to hold said lid in said liquid-tight sealing relationship on the container.

Claim 18 (Currently amended) Apparatus for providing a liquid-tight seal, including: a container having an upper edge defining an opening; said upper edge having an inner contact surface and an outer contact surface tapering from a lower wider region in a wedge shape to an uppermost single point region ~~generally to a single point~~; and a lid configured to cover said opening, the assembly between said lid and said container not including any rotating threaded engagement, said lid having a correspondingly-shaped receiving channel at its periphery, said correspondence between said upper edge and said channel forming a liquid-tight seal therebetween when said lid is assembled on said container, with substantially no deformation of said receiving channel required for said assembly of said lid and container, said channel including an inner contact and an outer contact surface between said lid and said container, said inner contact surface extending toward the bottom of the container as least as far as said outer contact surface, said lid including an outer skirt having a substantially continuous shoulder formed therein and extending further outwardly than an uppermost portion of said lid.

Claim 19 (Currently amended) Apparatus for providing a liquid-tight seal, including:

a container having an upper edge having an inner contact surface and an outer contact surface tapering from a lower wider region in a wedge shape to an upper most single point region ~~generally to a single point and defining an opening~~; and

an injection-molded lid configured to cover the opening, the assembly between said lid and said container not including any rotating threaded engagement, the lid having:

a channel at its periphery, and

an outer skirt having a substantially continuous annular shoulder formed therein, the shoulder extending further outwardly than an uppermost portion of the lid, the shoulder positioned between an engaging detent on the skirt and the uppermost portion of the lid;

wherein the channel is configured to abut and form a liquid-tight seal with the upper edge of the container when the lid is assembled on the container; and

wherein the channel includes a corresponding tapered section, the tapering relationship providing contacting and sealing engagement between the lid and the container on both an inner contact surface and an outer contact surface of the upper edge.

Claim 20 (Currently amended) The combination of a container and a mating lid, including:

apparatus for providing a liquid-tight seal between said container and said lid, the assembly of said lid and said container not including any rotating threaded engagement, said apparatus including:

said container having an upper edge having an inner contact surface and an outer contact surface tapering from a lower wider region in a wedge shape to an uppermost single point region ~~generally to a single point and defining an opening~~; and

said lid configured to cover the opening, the lid having a channel at its periphery, said channel being configured to abut and form a liquid-tight seal with the upper edge of the container when the lid is assembled on the container; and

wherein the channel includes a corresponding tapered section, the tapering relationship providing contacting and sealing engagement between the lid and the container on both an inner contact surface and an outer contact surface of the upper edge.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) The combination of Claim 20, in which said contacting and sealing engagement between the lid and the container, and said outer contact surface of the upper edge comprises a generally planar surface without any substantial angles when viewed in cross section.

Claim 22 (Previously presented) A method of packaging, including the steps of: providing the apparatus of Claim 2 or Claim 4 or Claim 18 or Claim 19 or Claim 20; placing at least one thing in container of said apparatus; and engaging said lid with said container.

Claim 23 (Previously presented) A method of handling a liquid, including the steps of: providing a lid of Claim 14 or Claim 16; placing said liquid in a corresponding container; and engaging said lid with said container.

Claim 24 (New) The device of Claim 2 or Claim 4 or Claim 14 or Claim 16 or Claim 18 or Claim 19 or Claim 20, wherein a tearstrip is formed in at least part of the skirt.

Claim 25 (New) The device of Claim 2 or Claim 4 or Claim 14 or Claim 16 or Claim 18 or Claim 19 or Claim 20, wherein a tearstrip is formed substantially around the entire periphery of the skirt.

Claim 26 (New) The device of Claim 2 or Claim 4 or Claim 14 or Claim 16 or Claim 18 or Claim 19 or Claim 20, wherein a tearstrip is formed around the periphery of the skirt.

Claim 27 (New) The device of Claim 2 or Claim 4 or Claim 14 or Claim 16 or Claim 18 or Claim 19 or Claim 20, wherein the lid includes a continuous annular shoulder formed therein.